

IN THE CLAIMS:

D<sup>1</sup>

71 (fourth amended). The protein of claim 77,  
wherein said protein is a ~~naturally occurring~~ mutant E5-1  
protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID  
NO:138 ~~but having at least one amino acid substitution therein.~~

Please delete pending claims 78 and 79.

Please add the following new claims:

D<sup>2</sup>

80. A substantially pure E5-1 protein, which is a  
splice variant of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID  
NO:138, or a naturally occurring mutant thereof.

81. The protein of claim 80, wherein said splice  
variant lacks amino acids 263-296 of SEQ ID NO:138.

82. The protein of claim 80, wherein said splice  
variant is encoded by a polynucleotide ~~defined by~~ SEQ ID  
NO:137, said polynucleotide lacking the triplet GAA codon at  
nucleotide positions 1338-1340.

83. A substantially pure mammalian E5-1 protein,  
encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:137, or  
a naturally occurring mutant thereof.

84. The protein of claim 83, which is a naturally  
occurring mutant E5-1 protein encoded by the nucleic acid  
sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:137 ~~but having at least one~~  
mutation therein.

85. The protein of claim 84, wherein said naturally  
occurring mutant E5-1 protein encoded by the nucleic acid  
sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:137 contains an A→T substitution  
at position 787 and/or an A→G substitution at position 1080 of  
said SEQ ID NO:137.